

What Have I Done?

The silent shadows fall,
The night has come again,
What have I done to-day
To help my fellow men?

Have I improved the time,
Each moment lived with care,
And evil overcome
By constant, earnest prayer?

Lord, help me to review
With honest heart the day,
And see where I have erred,
Or faltered by the way.

I look to thee for grace,
For help and strength I pray
Tomorrow to improve
Where I have failed today.

—Rena M. Hurd.

What Will the People Say?

EXTRACT OF A SERMON BY A. A. COBER.

Men scarcely do anything without propounding the question "what will the people say?" It is not so much because it is necessary to have the opinion of the public in all our doings as it is to have the approval of the public. Men work from a motive of approbation rather than a sense of duty. It is not so much, "is this my duty" as it is, "what will the people say about it?" This spirit of approbation, although it is too prominent in innumerable instances, is not in all cases to be denounced as hypocritical or insincere. A man's work must be appreciated before he can enter into it with full zeal. If it is not gratifying to his constituency it becomes less interesting to himself. The pang of dissatisfaction in the employer sinks equally as deep into the heart of the laborer and necessarily diminishes his zeal. Energy creates success and success in return brings with itself a new supply of energy.

Duty must, however, not be neglected by the desire of approbation. It is sometimes presumed that the fulfillment of duty brings dissatisfaction to others; but this is only the case when reason is dethroned by prejudice. The fulfillment of duty in the estimation of the impartial, results in entire satisfaction, and neglect can bring nothing but disgust. It is the man who stands nobly to his post and meets the demands of the times that receives the approval of his constituency. The man who shirks his duty with the expectation of rendering satisfaction is a coward and is unworthy of trust. Do your duty and let the people say what they please, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you said and did what pleased you.

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See that man just about to enter the hardware or drygoods business. He meets one of his friends and says, "Well my friend, what do the people say about me entering the mercantile business? Do they think I will make a success of it? Do you think I will have a good patronage?" Of course in a case of this kind it is necessary to learn the sentiments of the people for you are dependent upon the people. But there is a man thinking of going into business with God. He intends dealing in treasures of heaven. He desires to buy the Father's house. But before entering into contract he says, "What will the people say? If I join church what will they say at the store, what will they say at the shop? What will my friends say? Unlike secular interests our interests with God do not depend upon what the people say. The question should not be what will the people say; but what will God say? What will Christ say? What will Christians say? They all shout in unison "Come," God invites, Christ pleads, the angels long, and parents weep. If he depends upon the discouragement of the wicked his case will be a hopeless one. They mock; they scorn, they sneer, they laugh.

I imagine a man starting for heaven. His associates look at him. They say, "What does that man want with religion? What does he want to join church for? He is young yet and may live a long life. He is not going to die yet. He is in good health. It is only a fit and he will get over it soon. They laugh at him. He hears them. He looks around. Will he turn back? He turns. He can not bear to be laughed at. God pity him.

Christ have compassion upon him. Ye angels weep over him. His house is left unto him desolate. His evil companions laughed him out of the church, but they can not laugh him out of hell. They laughed him away from Christ, but they can not laugh him away from Satan. He is sick now. He has the fever. It burns harder and deeper. He can not live much longer. Now let the devils in hell and the demons of this world gather around his bed and laugh and mock, and sneer, and they can not laugh him to health. They can not soften his pillow. They can not cool his burning throat. They can bring no consolation to his bleeding heart. Oh, what can these mockers at religion do for him when the sand and sod and stones come rumbling down on his coffin? Let men say what they please, seek Christ and that right early. Do your duty and you will be approved.

Train the Children.

Essay read by Mary A. Murray, at Sugar Grove S. S. Institute, July 19, 1886.

Upon the children of our land today depend the future welfare of our nation. Just in the manner that those little ones are trained will be our nation's end.

There is no place outside the home circle that is better calculated to impress the young mind with good than S. S. if conducted in the proper manner.

There is too little attention paid to the training of the children who must soon fill the places of the more aged. Nothing is truer than God holds the person responsible for the higher development of the children they have in their care. True they are often wayward but that wisdom which is from above will see in their waywardness the greater need of a more strong and tender guide. If there were more confidence put in the children, they would get along better.

Some people think children should not be taught the Scripture so soon, but that is just what should be taught.

The child-mind is always active and just as sure as it is not impressed with good and noble thoughts it will be with evil, and what is now stamped upon the memory no careful training can ever entirely efface. They have a work to do as well as we. Christ said: Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not. When we follow this great Teacher back to old Galilee we find them helping and sharing in the joys that were there to receive. How often it happens when a little child has been trained right they lead older ones to Christ, yes "a little child shall lead them."

O, the sweetness of the world!
In the grand, millennial glory,
Ere the coming of the Lord.

That will be a glorious time, in those latter days of splendor the children shall receive a welcome from Christ to share in the joys and help in the ministry. How it rejoices our hearts to go to S. S. and see so many little children gathered there, and eager to learn something more from that Holy Book. What joy and comfort those little ones will have in after years, when those little nimble feet will totter as they walk; and their now bright eyes dim with age, in looking back to the scenes of their childhood where they learnt of wisdom's ways. Intervening years shall not dim the vivid coloring with which memory has adorned those joyous hours of youthful innocence, spent in learning the ways of the Lord.

They shall again be born on the wings of imagination to the place once made sacred by the religious instruction they received which now gives them such comfort. The little mind seems delighted in dwelling upon the things learnt from scripture. Like the fond and joyous recollection that cluster around the home circle are those of the S. S. which will always be a spot green in our memory. In our mind's eye we will again see those little bands of boys and girls gathered around the blackboard all eager to learn something more of Jesus; hear those little voices once more as they burst forth in songs and praise to Him who created them.

While we think of the blessed privileges that some children enjoy, look at the thousands of children that spend their Sundays in crime and wickedness! It is a curse to this mighty and en-

lightened nation of ours to see the way in which some of its children are being trained without a bit of religious instruction to lift them from the Gulf of sin towards which they are fast drifting.

Tonight I come unto you parents; unto you teachers; I appeal unto you in all the earnestness of my soul, why do you let things continue this way? How long will it be till you can see the responsibility that rests upon you for the training of children? How long shall we be made to weep to see the condition of those little innocent ones?

Awake to our souls and nation's interests, help train the children to higher and nobler motives.

And let your soul be on its guard,
"Ten thousand foes arise"
And train those little lambs
That they may mount above the skies.

Aleppo, Greene Co., Pa.

A Christian Letter of Sympathy.

REV. MALLOTT.

My brother: Although but a few weeks ago I intuitively poured forth my sorrow to you at having been bereft of a highly esteemed friend, I failed to fully realize just why it came so natural, until reading of the burden you have since been called to bear. But it now occurs to my mind, it was not so much for your information as for the sympathy that I knew would extend from a true brother on earth, as well as solaceing words from his pen or lips.

I now come to you with all the consolation my nature is capable of sending forth, and pray the Father that He alleviate your mind of distress and refresh your spirits by His own solaceing power, and that the consolation of this and the beyond, may be brought nearer by these events.

The happy thought is consoling that if our families do grow smaller here, they are taking up their abode just across the mystic river, in that house not made with hands, eternal and in the heavens, where we may join them and abide without fear of separation.

These happenings may seem mysterious to us, but, Paul, you know, says, all things work together for good. Therefore with David, let us say—let thy merciful kindness be for my comfort according to thy word.

At best, we are only lingering as prisoners of hope, soon to be liberated to bask in the elevating influence of eternal love, where the weaknesses of our human nature will, I trust, be eliminated and all that is pure and just and refined will be perfected, even as we now desire.

Believe me, fraternally, yours,

J. S. STEWARD.

The Jew and the Greek.

BY CLARA FLORA.

"For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek for the same Lord is over all." Romans 10: 12.

The Jew has no exclusive privilege and from this the Greek is not rejected. All are equally welcome to this salvation. Now if the Greek should say, I do not believe the Jews will ever be saved, I do not like the name much less their views of heaven. Now if their name was Greek, then I think they could enter the kingdom the very name would give them a pass through the pearly gates. Dear reader, does the Greek's belief change God's word? Never. God is no respecter of persons. No difference about the Greek's love for the Jews. The Greek brother has taken the judge's throne, judging the poor Jew according to his laws, he thought were right. God is waiting patiently with a smiling face, and a voice of love, saying judge not brother and sister. Let us be doers of the word, not judging. Let us joyfully appear at the bar of God, and behold every nation both small and great, the Jew and Greek, stand side by side.

Dallas Center, Iowa.

The beginning of Nehemiah's work of repair was that sad midnight ride round the ruined walls. So there is a solemn obligation laid on Christian people to acquaint themselves with the awful facts, and then to meditate on them, till sacred, Christ-like compassion, pressing against the flood-gate of the heart, flings them open, and lets out a stream of helpful pity and saving deeds.